

FEBRUARY 2024

VOLUME NO.19

# THE ANGELUS

THE HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH NEWSLETTER

## In This Issue

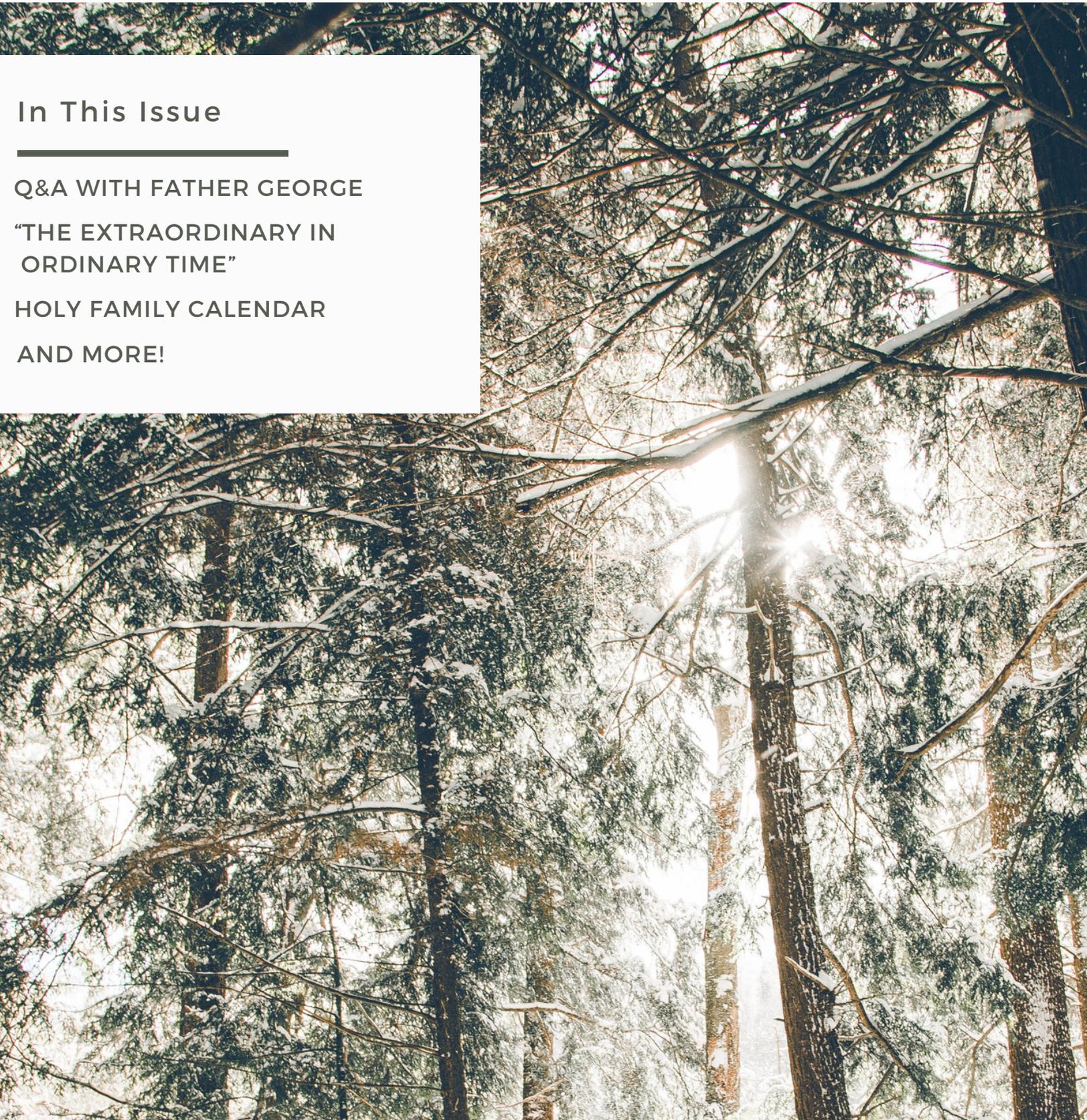
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Q&A WITH FATHER GEORGE

“THE EXTRAORDINARY IN  
ORDINARY TIME”

HOLY FAMILY CALENDAR

AND MORE!



## Q&A WITH FATHER GEORGE

*It has not been all that long since Father George arrived at Holy Family Parish. We thought it might be nice to get to know our Pastor a bit more with some Questions and Answers!*

### **Where did you grow up, Father George?**

I was born and raised in Uniontown. Attended Laurel Highlands High School. My family attended St. Joan of Arc in Farmington when I was young; I was an altar server and later a lector there.

### **What was your favorite youth activity?**

Boy Scouts. I joined Cub Scouts in second grade and have stayed involved ever since. I really enjoyed building Pinewood Derby cars with my Dad and the camping.

### **Where did you attend college and what did you major in?**

I earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Studies/Radio & Television from California University of Pennsylvania.

### **What has been your favorite part of moving to Latrobe?**

Always one of the best parts of moving to a new parish is meeting so many wonderful new people. It was very hard for me to leave St. Regis in Trafford (my previous assignment). Meeting and getting to know the people of Holy Family and St. John has been great. Also, working with a great staff. I also have to say that reacquainting myself with Latrobe has been fun; I haven't spent much time in this part of the diocese since my seminary days at Saint Vincent.

### **Have you found a favorite Latrobe restaurant?**

I am still exploring the restaurant scene in town, so I can't say that I have a favorite, but I do enjoy walking down Ligonier St. to Carmine's for lunch. I have enjoyed the menu at Chef Dato's Table. And I have enjoyed reacquainting myself with the Touchdown Club, Sharkey's, and Dino's (familiar haunts from seminary days).

### **What is your favorite bible verse and why?**

Ask me that question on any given day and I will probably give a different answer. However, let me give you two: Luke 1:39-45. The account of the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth is such a simple, sublime scene of pure joy. As we experience the nearness of Christ to us, we too, should reflect that same joy in our lives. The other is 1 Corinthians 15:10...By the grace of God, I am what I am. I am very much aware of my fears, anxieties, shortcomings, weaknesses, and foibles and yet the Lord has called me to my vocation as priest. By the grace of God, I am what I am!

### **What is your favorite Church hymn and why?**

The classic Easter hymn, "Alleluia, Alleluia, Let the Holy Anthem Rise" has always been a favorite of mine. It so beautifully expresses our Easter faith and the joy of the life we live in Christ as we grow toward that life that never dies.

### **Who is your favorite saint and why?**

One of the saints that I came to know during my years in seminary formation was St. Francis de Sales. As a young man, he had a great crisis of faith that was overcome as he opened himself to allow the rich mercy of God to flood his heart. That profound experience ordered his ministry throughout his life.

### **What is your favorite holiday?**

Easter!

### **What do you like to do in your spare time?**

Spare time? What's that? lol...Seriously, I do enjoy reading when I have some quiet time at home in the evening. I am a history nerd so I enjoy reading or talking about any kind of history but especially enjoy local and US history. On a day off, there is nothing better than jumping in the car and going for a drive. I am already looking forward to summer when I can head east on Route 30 in search of Chambersburg peaches.



## "THE EXTRAORDINARY IN ORDINARY TIME"

*"We have found the Messiah..."* John 1

When I hear this exclamation from Andrew, brother of Simon Peter in John's Gospel, I can hear the shock, the joy, and the astonishment, in his voice.

For right in the middle of this man's ordinary life, he encountered the extraordinary. God made man.

And he wasn't the only one with this experience. From this story on, the gospels detail how Jesus enters people's ordinary, everyday lives to teach, to heal, to perform miracles.

How these people must have felt! How they must have rubbed their eyes in wonder. How their hearts must have leapt. How they must have stood in shock as they witnessed his ministry.

And even if Jesus instructed them to keep their encounters to themselves, many could not. They spread the news. People left their homes and work behind to follow Him. Crowds formed and even swarmed Jesus at times. People stayed on mountainsides and seashores for days just to hear Him. To meet Him. To touch Him.

During these final days of liturgical time of Ordinary Time, in between the great seasons of Advent then Christmas and Lent then Easter, we too are called to encounter the extraordinary in the ordinary.

To encounter the extraordinary in all we do in our ordinary lives means adjusting the way we see the world around us. It means noticing the beauty, the gifts, the joy, the blessings that fill our ordinary days, no matter how small. It means encountering others with the love that Christ showed each person he met in his ministry. It means being Christ's hands and feet to our fellow man.

May we, just as Jesus's followers did, do everything we can to encounter Him. To meet him in this Ordinary time. To allow Him to show us the extraordinary. And may we never forget to rub our eyes in wonder, feel our hearts leap, and stand in wonder of it all.

*"Be extraordinary in ordinary times"*  
-Saint Joseph Marelllo



## MY JOURNEY TO THE DEACONATE

DEACON MIKE SHARES BELOW HOW GOD CALLED AN ORDINARY MAN INTO ANSWERING AN EXTRAORDINARY CALL TO SERVE PEOPLE THROUGH THE PERMANENT DEACONATE.

My journey toward becoming a deacon in the Catholic Church eight years ago was a testament to the intricate dance between human agency and the divine guidance of the Holy Spirit. Throughout my life, there were subtle nudges, whispers, and moments of profound connection that ultimately paved the way for this transformative vocation. Early on, the influence of my wife became a beacon of support and insight in my formation process.

As I became more deeply involved in my faith community, the Holy Spirit orchestrated encounters and experiences that kindled a desire for a more profound service to God and His people. It was as if an invisible hand was gently guiding me, revealing a path that I had yet to fully comprehend.

At times, I found myself grappling with these divine promptings. I vividly recall standing outside my house one evening, looking up at the vast expanse of the night sky, and engaging in a heartfelt conversation with God. “What do you want me to do?” I asked, feeling a mix of vulnerability and anticipation. The silence that followed was pregnant with the weight of a decision that shaped the trajectory of my life.

The nudges from the Holy Spirit persisted, leading me to reflect on the essence of my faith and the deeper meaning of service.

I immersed myself in prayer, seeking guidance through contemplation and meditation. It became increasingly clear that the call to the diaconate was not a fleeting notion but a persistent invitation to embrace a vocation of service and humility.

My wife’s guidance and perspective were seamlessly woven into this unfolding narrative. As a partner in my life’s journey, she became a source of insight, offering valuable perspectives during moments of discernment. Her presence was not the sole focus but rather an integral part of the tapestry of my spiritual development.

The nudges from the Holy Spirit, the introspective conversations with God, and the transformative formation process converged to illuminate a path that I could no longer ignore.

As I embraced the diaconal ministry, I carried with me the echoes of those moments outside my house, looking up at the heavens, and surrendering to the divine call that beckoned me to serve with love, humility, and unwavering faith, enriched by the guidance and perspective of my cherished wife.

I am truly blessed that I can serve however the good Lord asks of me.

Blessings,  
Deacon Mike

# HOLY FAMILY CALENDER OF EVENTS

## FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 Moms Ministry 9AM	3 Men's Fellowship 8:30AM
4 FF 9-10:15 AM Faith & Reasoning Youth Group at St. Vincent 7-9 PM	5	6 Women's Scripture Sharing 10:30-11:30AM Handbell Choir Practice 6PM	7 Women's Scripture Sharing 7-8PM Choir Practice 6:30PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 7PM	8 Confirmation Prep 7-9 PM	9	10 Marriage Blessing at all Masses Men's Fellowship 8:30AM Mardi Gras 5:30PM
11 Marriage Blessing at all Masses FF 9-10:15 AM Continental Breakfast	12	13 Women's Scripture Sharing 10:30-11:30AM Handbell Choir Practice 6PM	14 <i>Ash Wednesday. See below for Ash Wednesday Schedule</i> Women's Scripture Sharing 7-8PM Choir Practice 6:30PM	15	16 Stations @HF 9 AM & 6 PM Stations @SJ 12PM	17 Men's Fellowship 8:30AM
18	19	20 Women's Scripture Sharing 10:30-11:30AM Handbell Choir Practice 6PM Eucharistic Minister Meeting 6PM @ Holy Family	21 Women's Scripture Sharing 7-8PM Choir Practice 6:30PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 7PM Eucharistic Minister Meeting 6PM @ Saint John	22	23 Stations @ HF 9 AM & 6 PM Stations @SJ 12PM	24
25 FF 9-10:15 AM	26	27 Women's Scripture Sharing 10:30-11:30AM Handbell Choir Practice 6PM	28	29		

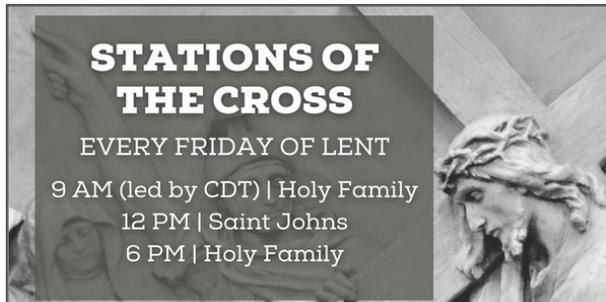
## MARCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Moms Ministry 9 AM Stations @HF 9AM & 6PM Stations @SJ 12 PM	2 Men's Fellowship 8:30AM
3 FF 9-10:15 AM	4	5 Women's Scripture Sharing 10:30 AM Handbell Choir Practice 6PM	6 Women's Scripture Sharing 7-8 PM Choir Practice 6:30PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 7PM	7	8 Stations @HF 9AM & 6PM Stations @ SJ 12PM	9 Men's Fellowship 8:30AM First Communion Workshop 9 AM
10 FF 9-10:15 AM	11	12 Women's Scripture Sharing 10:30AM Handbell Choir Practice 6PM	13 Women's Scripture Sharing 7-8 PM Choir Practice 6:30PM	14 Confirmation Prep 7-9 PM	15 Stations @HF 9AM & 6PM Stations @ SJ 12PM	16 Men's Fellowship 8:30AM
17 FF 9-10:15 AM Continental Breakfast	18	19 Women's Scripture Sharing 10:30AM Handbell Choir Practice 6PM	20 Women's Scripture Sharing 7-8 PM Choir Practice 6:30PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 7PM	21	22 Stations @HF 9AM & 6PM Stations @ SJ 12PM	23 Men's Fellowship 8:30AM Regional Penance Service 11 AM
24 <i>Palm Sunday</i> FF 9-10:15 AM  <i>Holy Week Schedule will be shared soon!</i>	25 31	26 Women's Scripture Sharing 10:30 AM Handbell Choir Practice 6PM	27 Women's Scripture Sharing 7-8 PM	28 <i>Holy Thursday</i>	29 <i>Good Friday</i>	30 <i>Holy Saturday</i> <i>Holy Week Schedule will be shared soon!</i>

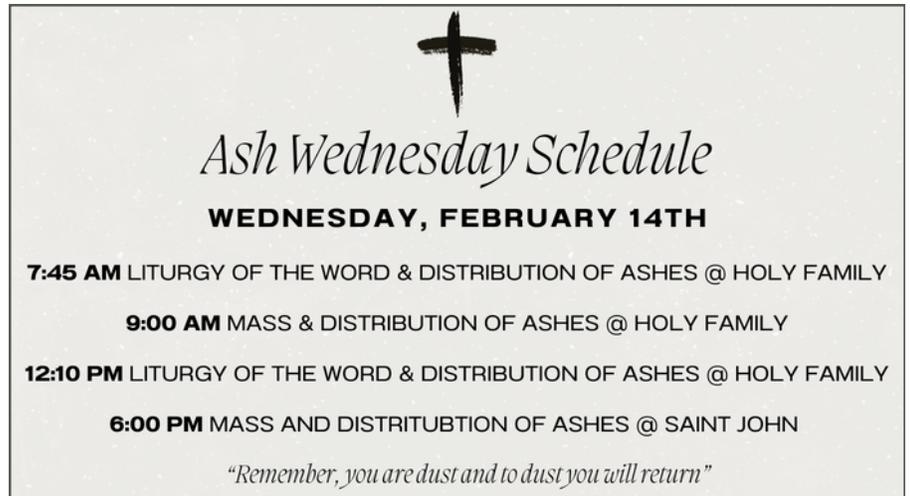
# HOLY FAMILY CALENDER OF EVENTS

## APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5 Moms Ministry 9 AM	6 Men's Fellowship 8:30 AM First Communion Retreat 9-11 AM
7 FF 9-10:15AM	8	9 Women's Scripture Sharing 10:30-11:30 AM Handbell Choir Practice 6PM	10 Women's Scripture Sharing 7-8 PM Choir Practice 6:30PM	11	12	13 Men's Fellowship 8:30 AM Confirmation Retreat 10 AM Rosary Society Vendor & Craft Show 10 AM
14 FF 9-10:15 AM	15	16 Women's Scripture Sharing 10:30-11:30 AM Handbell Choir Practice 6PM	17 Women's Scripture Sharing 7-8 PM Choir Practice 6:30PM	18 Confirmation Prep 7-9 PM	19	20 Men's Fellowship 8:30 AM
21 FF 9-10:15 AM Continental Breakfast	22	23 Women's Scripture Sharing 10:30-11:30 AM Handbell Choir Practice 6PM	24 Women's Scripture Sharing 7-8 PM Choir Practice 6:30PM	25	26	27 Men's Fellowship 8:30 AM First Communion Rehearsal 9 AM
28 FF 9-10:15 AM First Communion at 10:30 AM Mass	29	30 Women's Scripture Sharing 10:30-11:30 AM Handbell Choir Practice 6PM	31 Women's Scripture Sharing 7-8 PM Choir Practice 6:30PM	1	2 Mom's Ministry 9: AM	3 Men's Fellowship 8:30AM



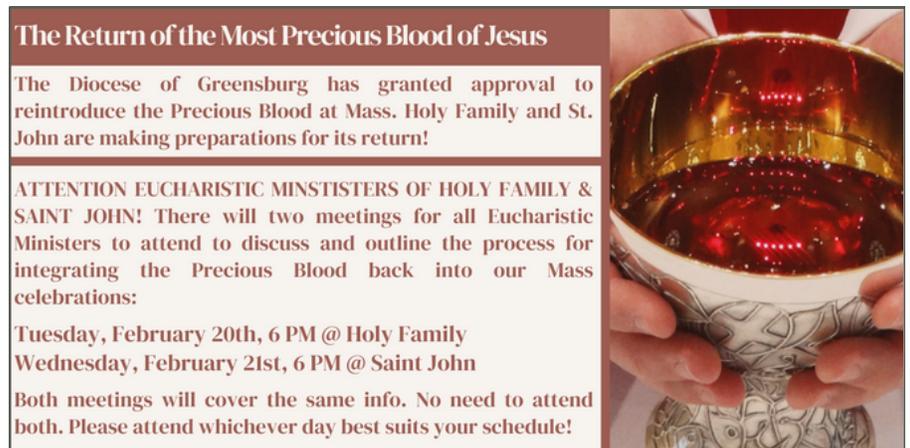
**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**  
EVERY FRIDAY OF LENT  
9 AM (led by CDT) | Holy Family  
12 PM | Saint Johns  
6 PM | Holy Family



**Ash Wednesday Schedule**  
**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH**  
**7:45 AM** LITURGY OF THE WORD & DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES @ HOLY FAMILY  
**9:00 AM** MASS & DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES @ HOLY FAMILY  
**12:10 PM** LITURGY OF THE WORD & DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES @ HOLY FAMILY  
**6:00 PM** MASS AND DISTRITUBTION OF ASHES @ SAINT JOHN  
*"Remember, you are dust and to dust you will return"*



**Holy Week**  
HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE FOR HOLY FAMILY & SAINT JOHN'S WILL BE ANNOUNCED SOON. CHECK BULLETIN & WEBSITE FOR DETAILS!



**The Return of the Most Precious Blood of Jesus**  
The Diocese of Greensburg has granted approval to reintroduce the Precious Blood at Mass. Holy Family and St. John are making preparations for its return!  
**ATTENTION EUCHARISTIC MINSTISTERS OF HOLY FAMILY & SAINT JOHN!** There will two meetings for all Eucharistic Ministers to attend to discuss and outline the process for integrating the Precious Blood back into our Mass celebrations:  
Tuesday, February 20th, 6 PM @ Holy Family  
Wednesday, February 21st, 6 PM @ Saint John  
Both meetings will cover the same info. No need to attend both. Please attend whichever day best suits your schedule!



**REGIONAL LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES**  
Thursday, March 7th, Saint James, New Alexandria, 7 PM  
Thursday, March 14th, Saint Joseph, Derry, 7 PM  
Thursday, March 21st, Saint Rose, Latrobe, 7 PM  
Saturday, March 23rd, Saint John, Latrobe, 11 AM



## UPCOMING EVENTS & MINISTRY NEWS

**Caroline Massetto, Coordinator of Pastoral Ministries, [cmassetto@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:cmassetto@dioceseofgreensburg.org)**

We are grateful to our ministry members and leaders for their continued commitment! We thank all ministries for offering an opportunity for people to encounter the extraordinary through the beauty of parish ministry. Reach out to Caroline with questions about our ministries or if you have an idea for a new ministry!

Below are our ads for each of our ministries and some upcoming dates and events!



### HOLY FAMILY BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

Lovingly providing support to those experiencing loss, saying goodbye to a loved one, and laying a loved one to rest.



**MEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

Contact  
Gerry Baldonieri  
[GITK@comcast.net](mailto:GITK@comcast.net)  
Text: 724-396-3575

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Join us on Saturday mornings at 8:30 AM in the Divine Artworks Center for 90 minutes of fellowship, Scripture study, faith sharing, prayer and a cup or two of coffee.

**Women's Scripture Sharing**

Contact: Peg Mulcahy  
[mgtmulc@comcast.net](mailto:mgtmulc@comcast.net)  
724-875-8691

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Join us Tuesdays at 10:30 AM or Wednesdays at 7:00 PM in the Church Hall to engage with Christ through the Word via the unique approach and experience as women!

Please note that women are welcome to join us EITHER at the Tuesday 10:30 AM session OR at the Wednesday 7:00 PM session. The same readings are discussed at each session so no one comes twice a week. Please drop by whenever you can!

**SAVE THE DATE**

### ROSARY SOCIETY'S VENDOR & CRAFT SHOW

**SATURDAY, APRIL 13TH**

More vendors are needed! To reserve a table as a vendor, contact Phyllis at 724-331-8403 or [pkosczuk@gmail.com](mailto:pkosczuk@gmail.com)

### HOLY FAMILY PRAYER CHAIN

*Are you or a loved one in need of prayer?*  
Please contact us if you have a prayer need and would like our prayer chain team to pray for you or a loved one. We are a team of prayer warriors that pray for intentions privately.

*Are you someone who would like to pray for the needs of others?* We welcome new prayer chain members!



### HOMEBOUND MINISTRY

*Bringing the Eucharist to our Homebound parishioners*





SCAN THE QR CODE to volunteer or submit the name of a homebound parishioner or go to [www.holyfamilylatrobe.org/homebound](http://www.holyfamilylatrobe.org/homebound)

### MOM'S MINISTRY

Mom's Ministry is dedicated to fellowship and mutual support for mothers within the parish community, from expectant to experienced moms, all are welcome!

Join us on the first Friday of every month at 9 AM in the Divine Artworks Center for "Pray & Play"

**SUNDAYS 7-9PM,  
DIVINE ARTWORKS CENTER**

## YOUTH GROUP

ALL HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH WELCOME!  
SNACKS, FAITH, FELLOWSHIP!

Questions? Contact Caroline Massetto  
[cmassetto@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:cmassetto@dioceseofgreensburg.org)



**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**  
*meets the first and third Wednesday of the month at 7pm in the Divine Artworks Center*



**HOLY FAMILY ANGEL TREE!**  
Each Christmas, we come together to give to those in need in honor of Christ's birth! For 2023's Giving Tree, we provided gifts to over 70 children in our community!



**VOCATIONS MINISTRY**  
Praying for all vocations, especially young men & women who are discerning religious life!



**CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY MEETS EACH WEEK AT 10:30 AM SUNDAY MASS. WE WELCOME ALL CHILDREN AGES PRE-K THROUGH 5TH GRADE TO JOIN US! AND THANK YOU TO ALL OUR MINISTERS WHO GIVE OF THEIR TIME TO SERVE!**

"LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME"

### ADORATION CHAPEL

SUNDAY	12 noon – 6 p.m.
TUESDAY	11 a.m. – 10 p.m.
WEDNESDAY	3 p.m. – 10 p.m.
THURSDAY	11 a.m. – 10 p.m.

*Our Ministry's Mission could use more volunteers for prayer!*



*A Seven Sister:  
One Holy Hour,  
One Priest,  
Each Week,  
One Heart of Prayer*

For more information, please contact:

Rachel Ruffing  
(724)454-3624 or  
[ruffingfam2011@yahoo.com](mailto:ruffingfam2011@yahoo.com)

# FAITH FORMATION & CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

Jody Taylor, Coordinator of Faith Formation  
jtaylor@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Faith Formation and Confirmation Prep 2023-2024 has been a wonderful, faith-filled, and enlightening year for students, families, and catechists alike! Below is a few highlights from Faith Formation so far!



Students of FF always create such wonderful bulletins!



Our annual All Saint's Day Celebration is always such fun as we celebrate our saintly heroes!



FF collected items for the Holy Family Food Pantry. Thank you for your generosity and service!



Second Grade Students attended a fantastic retreat then made their First Reconciliation on December 9, 2023. May God continue to bless these children!



FF students and parents enjoyed our annual Christmas program!

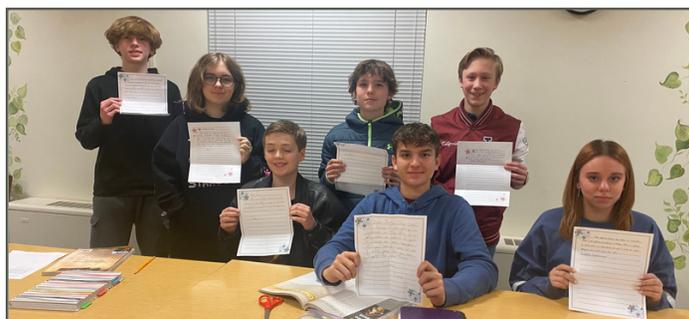
# FAITH FORMATION & CONFIRMATION PREPARATION CONTINUED...



8th Grade Confirmandi helped to decorate the Church for Christmas!



Confirmandi enjoyed a reflective and prayerful morning with Bishop Kulick and other regional confirmandi.



Confirmandi wrote letters to our faithful daily Mass parishioners. Our parishioners were so happy to receive the letters. We thank our Confirmandi and our daily Mass attendees for their prayers for each other



## LOOKING AHEAD FOR FAITH FORMATION & CONFIRMATION PREPARATION!

First Holy Communion Workshop (Grade 2)	Saturday, March 9th, 9:00 AM
First Holy Communion Retreat/Workshop (Grade 2)	Saturday, April 6th, 9:00 AM
Confirmation Retreat (8th Grade)	Saturday, April 13th, 10:00 AM
First Holy Communion Rehearsal (Grade 2)	Saturday, April 27th, 9:00 AM
First Holy Communion	Sunday, April 28th, 10:30 AM Mass
Confirmation Mass	Saturday, May 4th, 10:00 AM
End of Year Celebration for FF (All FF Students)	Sunday, May 5th, 12:00 PM



## OUR CHOIRS

**Bob Mason, Director of Liturgical Music**  
**rmason@dioceseofgreensburg.org**

We wish to extend a special thank you to our choir members! Holy Family is blessed to have three choirs that serve our parish. Our Regular Choir, our Handbell Choir, and our Resurrection Choir.

To every member who spends countless hours practicing, singing, cantoring, and answering the call when asked, we thank you!

Our choirs always welcome any new members at any time of the year! If interested, please contact Bob Mason.

**Regular Choir** Rehearsals are Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 PM at Holy Family. Regular Choir has traditionally sang at 10:30 AM Sunday Masses.

**Handbell Choir** Rehearsals are held Tuesdays, 6-7 PM at Saint John's. Members must be at least 14 years of age. Reading music or prior experience with handbells is not necessary.

**Resurrection Choir** serves Holy Family on a need basis when a funeral is schedule for the faithfully departed.

*“Be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart...”*

Ephesians 5:18-19

## OUR HANDBELL CHOIR HAS BEEN A BLESSING!



Led by Marian Bates, our Handbell Choir has blessed Holy Family and Saint John with the lovely sound of traditional bell ringing.

The choir is currently made up of ten members who have played for Father George's Installation Mass at both parishes, and a Christmas music program before the Christmas Eve Mass at Saint John.

The choir is currently working on playing at the 4:30 PM Holy Family Mass on Saturday, February 10th!



*“Be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart...”*

Ephesians 5:18-19



## SINCE OUR LAST ANGELUS...

Since we published our last newsletter in August, we have come together as a parish to share in many wonderful special events. Take a look below at some wonderful memories from a handful of our events!



Golf Outing



Last Supper Exhibit & Gala



Fr. George's Installation Mass



Rosary Society's Oldies Dance



Pet Blessing



Rosary Rally



Volunteer Appreciation Dinner



Holy Family Light Up Night



"Who is Jesus to Me"  
Art Contest

**THANK YOU** to all who plan and attend such wonderful Holy Family events! We love our parish!

**HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH  
1200 LIGONIER STREET  
LATROBE, PA 15650**

Non Profit Organization

U.S. Postage

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LATROBE PA

PERMIT NO. 138

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**ALL ARE WELCOME  
ALL ARE INVITED TO ENCOUNTER CHRIST  
ALL BELONG TO THIS COMMUNITY**

**WWW.HOLYFAMILYLATROBE.ORG**

**724-539-9751**

**FIND US ON FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, & YOUTUBE**

